

NOT GOOD FOR CHILDREN.

It Raised the Indignation of the  
Pastor of Mount Morris Bap-  
tist Church.

And at the Same Time He Denounces the

### Growing Habit of Conversion During Service.

The officers of Mount Morris Baptist Church in future will exercise a more rigid censorship over the work of paid performers who are secured for the Sunday school entertainments. The pastor, the Rev. W. C. Bitting, declares it will be done, and, according to his statement, there is ample reason for it.

The entertainment given Christmas to the scholars was not exactly a success, for some of the smaller children were very nervous.

Mount Morris Baptist Church is in Fifth avenue, between One Hundred and Twenty-sixth and One Hundred and Twenty-seventh streets. It is a progressive church, and one of its features is that no notices, save in exceptional cases, are read from the pulpit. The notices are made public, to be sure, and for this purpose a weekly paper is published, which is quite conspicuous in a book-

The paper is called Our Church, and its regular weekly visits are anticipated with a great deal of interest by all the members of the congregation, irrespective of age. There is always something in it to interest them, and the issue of the present week contained two surprises.

attendant knows too well. They know, too, just who the offenders are. But women will talk in Harlem, just as they will any place else, and a well-dressed woman in church should be the last one whom a sensible person would hope to be an exception. That's the way some philosophic folks viewed the matter.

Pastor Bittling is no less philosophic, but he knew that two gossiping women could scorchinate any sort of philosophy as to turn it into ridicule and cynicism. Desiring

There has been some complaint coming to some of the officers of our church concerning the whispering and conversation of some visitors to our church services. We earnestly hope that in this paragraph is seen by them, they will recognize themselves as those who disturb worship and will try to try to respect the rights and feelings of others. It is very painful to call public attention to such matters in this way, and still more so to sue

Of course, nearly everybody knows whom the paragraph refers. But this is insignificant compared to another editorial utterance, which, evidently long delayed, has gathered strength from that fact alone. It was concerning the Christmas entertainments:

this because we have heard of harm which has followed from his performances. We have heard that his high school students were very coarse and have not only influenced some of our Sunday school boys and girls in harmful directions but have disgusted others whose good opinion we prize very highly.

We make this statement reluctantly, and at the cost of great pain to us, and yet we know of no other way of saying that this man is an exhibitor of what we believe does not at all represent our taste, and would not have been allowed had we known of it beforehand.

We have hesitated a long time before making

before we have as much right to disapprove that which is not what it should be as to approve that which is proper. We may say as much in this regard that anything unpleasant and unwelcome to the public officials of our school and the committee in charge of the Christmas entertainment most heartily concur.

The committee in charge of the entertainment were Messrs. Knapp, Thomas and Camp and Misses Taylor and Hills. None of them had the slightest idea of the record that was to jar upon the festive occasion. Dr. J. G. Smith, of No. 307 Lenox

Dr. Smith yesterday, "but he was a minute ago and I must confess, was a little surprised. The part of his work which objects to him has been taken was when he imitated an old woman who was protesting against the introduction of an organ in the church. It was a satire on church folks who are not progressive, and while perhaps harmless enough elsewhere, came with very bad taste at a Sunday school entertainment."

"And there was a song the man sang in German that seemed especially distasteful to the pastor. I cannot recall now just what it was all about."

that evening he had his son with him. He lashed the boy with a whip, telling him to hurry along with the presents. Some of the younger children up front whimpered at such a terrible Santa, and the person playing the part was requested to desist.

**CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE**

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 20.—The annual report of the State Board of Claims, which was submitted to the Legislature tonight and

shows that the Board has since its creation in 1883 heard and decided to January 1, 1896, 2,382 claims against the State, aggregating \$5,379,070, exclusive of interest, and

The whole number of claims filed with the Board to January 1, including the appeals transferred from the Canal appraiser is 3,312, and there are now pending 62 claims. There were 523 claims filed with the Board during the past year. The num-

**Cotton Planters Reduce Acreage.**  
Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 20.—A large attendance of cotton planters from all over the entire South is expected at the Cotton Growers' Association, which is to be held in the

reduction of acreage for the coming year. Hector D. Lane, president of the Cotton Growers' Association, says the crop this year does not exceed 6,500,000 bales, and

**Boothblack Lutrell Arrested.**  
Patrick Lutrell, a boothblack on the ENH Island steamboat Laura M. Starin, was ar

rested in the Saturday night at the Jefferson Street Hospital. He had come there to have a stab wound in his breast fixed. The wound was six inches long and six inches deep, and was received by the surgeons. He said he had received the wound in a fight on the corner of the street. He had \$85 in his pockets at the time. The police of the Leonard Street Station thought he might have been implicated in a highway robbery. He was discharged in the morning and taken to the Jefferson Market Court.